

SO-7101*

DATE:

SUBJECT **Preparations for an Arab Revolt**

DIST. 14 August 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT 80-3992, 80-6998

ORIGIN

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

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SOURCE W; reliable Arab informant.

1. It is reported that the Mufti still believes that the United Nations' decision will mean the partition of Palestine and he is therefore eager to organize (probably in Syria) a conference of Arabs to decide Arab policy. At the same time there would be a meeting of representatives of Arab governments in Egypt with a Parliamentary Congress of the deputies of all Arab states.
2. In the meantime, the Mufti is continuing preparations for an armed revolt. He has recently been assured support by the following Arab leaders: Yusuf Haykal, Farid Nashid, and Ahmad Shuqari.
3. An arms-buying organization, which has been formed in Palestine, has been allocated £ 15,000 from the Arab Higher Executive. The central arms depot is reportedly being made in the Midan Quarter of Damascus.
4. Salim 'Abd-al-Rahman is reported to be touring the Levant and is listing all those willing to fight in an Arab revolt.
5. In early June a Syrian Army officer was said to be leaving on a recruiting drive in Northern Syria to form bands of irregulars paid by the Syrian Army. He is reported to have stated that in the near future forty-one military posts will be set up on the Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian and Syrian-Palestinian frontiers, ostensibly for the prevention of smuggling, etc., although the posts actually will be used as reinforcement centers and supply posts for Arab bands when the fighting begins. Nabih Assah is the main figure in this scheme.
6. Arab bands will be employed as guerrillas and operations will be confined, if possible, to action against the Jews, not against the British.

*Palestinian Arabs.

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